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Mother of Victims Can't Forgive Barbie

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NICE, France—

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The three Benguigui brothers were among 44 Jewish children sent to Nazi death camps after the Gestapo raided their school in the village of Izieu in southwestern France on April 6, 1944. The incident has become central to the state's case against Barbie—who was known as the "Butcher of Lyons" because of his wartime activ-

ities—and will figure prominently in the trial, which is likely to open toward the end of this year.

The trial will pit the determination of people such as Benguigui to see that justice finally is done against an array of legal, political and historical problems that arise from trying to prosecute someone for crimes committed more than four decades ago.

Public attention has focused on the case because of Barbie's dramatic expulsion from Bolivia in February 1983 after a postwar career that included collaborating with U.S. military intelligence in West Germany.

Barbie is regarded by many writers and historians as a case study of a middle-level Nazi functionary who managed to escape from Western Europe after the war only to be brought back to the scene of his alleged crimes as an old man.

After wading through a welter of accusations against Barbie, 72, French investigating magistrates already have been obliged to narrow their case to a few specific charges that qualify as "crimes against humanity." This category excludes his actions against members of the wartime French resistance including their leader, Jean Moulin, whom he allegedly tortured to death in June 1943.

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